

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating a obstructed biological conduit, comprising administering to the conduit an agent that can degrade extracellular matrix of obstructing tissue.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the agent can solubilize or othwerwise degrade collogen or elastin.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the agent can solubilize or otherwise degrade collogen.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the agent can solubilize or otherwise degrade elastin.
5. The method of any one of claims 1 through 4 wherein the agent comprises an enzyme or a mixture of enzymes that can degrade collagen and/or elastin.
6. The method of any one of claims 1 through 5 wherein in a standard *in vitro* tissue digestion assay the agent exhibits at least about 10 percent greater digestion activity relative to a control.
7. The method of any one of claims 1 through 5 wherein in a standard *in vitro* tissue digestion assay the agent exhibits at least about 50 percent greater digestion activity relative to a control.
8. The method of any one of claims 1 through 7 wherein the agent is a collagenase, elastase or trypsin inhibitor.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 through 8 wherein the agent is administered by a catheter.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 through 9 wherein the obstruction of the biological conduit is a stenosis, stricture or lesion.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 through 10 wherein the biological conduit is an artery, vein, ureter, bronchi, bile duct, or pancreatic duct.

12. The method of any one of claims 1 through 11 wherein the agent is administered to a mammal having an obstructed biological conduit, or susceptible to an obstructed biological conduit.

13. A method of dilating a biological conduit, comprising:  
administering to a biological conduit a therapeutic agent that is capable of degrading elastin and/or collagen.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising, after administering the therapeutic agent, pressurizing the biological conduit.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the biological conduit is pressurized by mechanical action.

16. The method of claim 14 or 15 wherein the biological conduit is pressurized by a balloon catheter.

17. The method of any one of claims 14 through 16 wherein the therapeutic agent is administered and the pressurizing is performed by the same device.

18. The method of any one of claims 14 through 17 wherein, after administering the therapeutic agent, a time period is permitted to lapse sufficient for the administered therapeutic agent to permeate through walls of the biological conduit.

19. A pharmaceutical kit comprising:  
an agent that can degrade extracellular matrix of obstructing tissue of a mammalian biological conduit;  
a delivery device for the agent.

20. The kit of claim 19 wherein the agent can solubilize collagen and/or elastin.

21. The kit of claim 19 wherein the agent comprises an enzyme or a mixture of enzymes that can degrade collagen and/or elastin.

22. The kit of any one of claims 19 through 21 wherein the therapeutic agent is a collagenase, elastase or trypsin inhibitor.

23. The kit of any one of claims 19 through 22 wherein in a standard *in vitro* tissue digestion assay the agent exhibits at least about 10 percent greater digestion activity relative to a control.

24. The kit of any one of claims 19 through 23 wherein the device is a syringe or catheter.

25. A method for treating a mammal suffering from or susceptible to a disease or disorder associated with obstruction of a biological conduit of the mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a composition agent that can degrade the conduit obstruction.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the composition degrades extracellular matrix of tissue of the conduit obstruction.

27. The method of claim 25 or 26 wherein the composition can solubilize or otherwise degrade collagen or elastin.

28. The method of any one of claims 25 through 27 wherein the composition comprises an enzyme or a mixture of enzymes that can degrade collagen and/or elastin.

29. The method of any one of claims 25 through 28 wherein the composition comprises collagenase, elastase and/or trypsin inhibitor.

30. The method of any one of claims 25 through 29 wherein in a standard *in vitro* tissue digestion assay the agent exhibits at least about 10 percent greater digestion activity relative to a control.

31. The method of any one of claims 25 through 30 wherein the therapeutic agent is administered by a catheter.

32. The method of any one of claims 25 through 31 wherein the obstruction of the biological conduit is a stenosis, stricture or lesion.

33. The method of any one of claims 25 through 32 wherein the biological conduit is an artery, vein, ureter, bronchi, bile duct, or pancreatic duct.

34. The method of any one of claims 25 through 33 wherein the mammal is suffering from benign biliary stricture, stenosis of hemodialysis graft, intimal hyperplasia, or coronary obstruction.

35. The method of any one of claims 25 through 34 wherein the mammal is a human.

36. A method for treating a mammal suffering from or susceptible to biliary stricture, stenosis of hemodialysis graft, intimal hyperlasia, or coronary obstruction, comprising administering to the mammal a composition agent that can solubilize or otherwise degrade collagen or elastin of the mammal.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the composition comprises an enzyme or a mixture of enzymes that can degrade collagen and/or elastin.

38. The method of claim 36 or 37 wherein the composition comprises a collagenase, elastase or a trypsin inhibitor.

39. The method of any one of claims 36 through 38 wherein the mammal is a human.